

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MASAHIRO HOSODA ET AL
Serial No.: To Be Assigned Group Art Unit:
Filed: Concurrently Herewith Examiner:
Title: COMBINATION SEAL RING WITH ENCODER

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

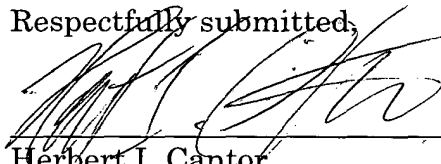
These prior art documents were also submitted in several Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 4, 2000, October 24, 2000, and March 28, 2001 in the parent application Serial No. 09/541,697.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the

first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Cantor', is written over a horizontal line.

Herbert I. Cantor

Registration No. 24,392

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Attorney Docket No. 38920.48799C1	Serial No. To Be Assigned
	Applicant: Masahiro HOSODA, et al.	
	Filing Date Concurrently Herewith	Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AZ	6250811	06/2001	Mizukoshi, et al.			
	AB	6170992	01/2001	Angelo, et al.			
	AC	5947611	07/1999	Nagase			
	AD	5431413	11/1995	Hajzler			
	AE	Des. 405723	02/1999	Anscher			
	AF	Des. 405724	02/1999	Anscher			
	AG	Des. 405725	02/1999	Anscher			
	AH	Des. 422142	04/2000	Hicks, et al.			
	AI	Des. 426063	06/2000	Hicks, et al.			
	AJ	658124	09/1900	Semple			
	AK	664814	12/1900	Manes			
	AL	751090	02/1904	Marold			
	AM	967664	08/1910	Peterson			
	AN	1565392	12/1925	Powers			
	AO	2412895	12/1946	Lewis			
	AP	2585089	02/1952	Caldwell, et al.			
	AQ	3896527	07/1975	Miller, et al.			
	AR	4387490	06/1983	Blackburn, et al.			
	AS	4441677	04/1984	Byerly			
	AT	4586499	05/1986	Kaletzky			
	AU	4692970	09/1987	Anthony, et al.			
	AV	4795069	01/1989	Ferrill			
	AW	5027477	07/1991	Seron			
	AX	5121865	06/1992	Howard			
	AY	5127137	07/1992	Krauss			

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.

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	Applicant: Masahiro HOSODA, et al.	
	Filing Date Concurrently Herewith	Group

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AZ	5136756	08/1992	Krauss			
	BA	5216786	06/1993	Anscher			
	BB	5274887	01/1994	Fudaki			
	BC	5365642	11/1994	Rekuc, et al.			
	BD	5414903	05/1995	Porteous			
	BE	5475901	12/1995	Anscher			
	BF	5561891	06/1995	Hsieh			
	BG	5582337	12/1996	McPherson, et al.			
	BH	5669119	09/1997	Seron			
	BI	5689860	11/1997	Matoda, et al.			
	BJ	5842256	12/1998	Anscher			
	BK	5855057	01/1999	Anscher			
	BL	5893199	04/1999	Anscher			
	BM	5933925	08/1999	Anscher, et al.			
	BN	5974637	11/1999	Tracy, et al.			
	BO	5143458	09/1992	Alff, et al.			
	BP	4948277	08/1990	Alff			
	BQ	5454647	10/1995	Otto			
	BR	5458420	10/1995	Otto			
	BS	5530344	06/1996	Caillaut, et al.			
	BT	5611545	03/1997	Nicot			
	BU	6065879	05/2000	Mitsue, et al.			
	BW	6170992	01/2001	Angelo, et al.			
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	Filing Date Concurrently Herewith	Group

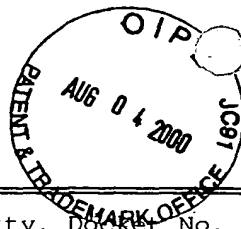
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub- Class	TRANSLATION	
							Yes	No
	BX	891022	03/1962	United Kingdom				
	BY	3837261	05/1990	Germany				
	BZ	2528784	08/1991	Japan				
	CA	2660975	10/1991	France				
	CB	2740186	04/1997	France				
	CC	526233	02/1993	Japan				
	CD	6421219	01/1989	Japan				
	CE	5238369	09/1993	Japan				
	CF	6281018	10/1994	Japan				
	CG	9274051	10/1997	Japan				
	CH	1144702	02/1999	Japan				
	CI	0495323	07/1992	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)										
	CJ	Snugz USA Product Catalog, January 1997								
	CK	Snugz USA Product Catalog, January 1999								
	CL	Snugz USA Product Catalog, January 2000								
	CM	Fields 2000 Collection Eyewear and Outdoor Accessories & Gifts, available on information and belief, January 2000								
	CN	U.S. Provisional Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial No. 60/088,262, filed June 5, 1998								
	CO	U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial No. 29/105,931, filed June 4, 1999								
	CP	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial 29/105,931, file June 4, 1999								
	CQ	U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial No. 29/105,930, filed June 4, 1999								
	CR	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial 29/105,930, file June 9, 1999								

EXAMINER EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.	DATE CONSIDERED
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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office	Attorney Docket No. 38920.48799C1	Serial No. To Be Assigned
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Applicant: Masahiro HOSODA, et al.	
	Filing Date Concurrently Herewith	Group

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	CS	U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial No. 29/106,139, filed June 9, 1999					
	CT	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks, et al., Serial 29/106,139, file June 9, 1999					
	CU	SNUGZ USA, Inc. Website, Dated October 3, 2000					
	CV	EK Ekcessories, Inc. Website, Dated April 4, 2000					
	CW	Photographs (taken October, 2000) of lanyard, on information and belief, sold after June 1998, and prior to March 31, 2000, with attachment member selectively coupled thereto.					
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.							



Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. 313KA/48799		Serial No. 09/541,697	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Masahiro HOSODA et al.			
				Filing Date April 3, 2000		Group Art Unit:	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub- Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AA	5,947,611	9-07-99	Nagase	384	448	1-22-97
	AB	5,431,413	7-11-95	Hajzler	277	2	
	AC						
	AD						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document	Date	Country	Class	Sub- class	Translation Yes No
	AE	JP 5-26233	2-02-93	Japan			X
	AF	JP 64-21219	1-24-89	Japan			X
	AG	JP 5-238369	9-17-93	Japan			abstract
	AH	JP 6-281018	10-07-94	Japan			abstract; see also US 5,431,413
	AI	JP 9-274051	10-21-97	Japan			abstract
	AJ	JP 11-44702	2-16-99	Japan			abstract
	AK	EP 0 495 323	7-22-92	Japan			abstract
	AL						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED 6/1/01			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.							



Form PTO-1449		Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. 313KA/48799	Serial No. 09/541,697		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicants MASAHIRO HOSODA ET AL.			
				Filing Date APRIL 3, 2000		Group Art Unit: 3626	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub- Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AA	5,143,458	9-01-92	Alff et al.	384	448	RECEIVED
	AB						
	AC						MAR 30 2001
	AD						
	AE						TO 3600 MAIL ROOM
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document	Date	Country	Class	Sub- class	Translation Yes No
	AF	JP 2528784	8-26-91	Japan			X
	AG	FR 2 660 975	10-18-91	France			see US 5,143,458
	AH	FR 2 740 186	4-25-97	France			see US 5,622,437 (already in file)
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED 6/1/01			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.							

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/541,697

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
HOSODA ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew E. Rodgers

Art Unit

3626

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number	Date	Name	Classification	
		Country Code-Number-Kind Code	MM-YYYY			
	A	US-4948277-	08-1990	Alff	384	448
	B	US-5454647-	10-1995	Otto	384	486
	C	US-5458420-	10-1995	Otto	384	448
	D	US-5530344-	06-1996	Caillaut et al	324	174
	E	US-5611545-	03-1997	Nicot	277	2
	F	US-6065879-	05-2000	Mitsue et al	384	448
	G	US-6170992-	01-2001	Angelo et al	384	477
	H	US- -				
	I	US- -				
	J	US- -				
	K	US- -				
	L	US- -				
	M	US- -				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number	Date	Country	Name	Classification	
		Country Code-Number-Kind Code	MM-YYYY				
	N	- -					
	O	- -					
	P	- -					
	Q	- -					
	R	- -					
	S	- -					
	T	- -					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/541,697

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
HOSODA ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew E. Rodgers

Art Unit

3626

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-6,250,811	06-2001	Mizukoshi et al.	384/448
	B	US-6,170,992	01-2001	Angelo et al.	277/551
	C	US-			
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	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Form PTO-1449

Applicant:

Serial No.:

Filing Date:

For:

Snugz USA, Inc.

09/541,297

April 3, 2000

LANYARD CONNECTOR AND SYSTEM



Sheet 1 of 1

Att'y Docket No. 14591.2.1.1

Group: 36263626

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANTU.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial*	Patent Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
<u>MA</u> A1	Des. 405,723	02/16/99	Anscher	D11	216	05/08/98
— A2	Des. 405,724	02/16/99	Anscher	D11	216	07/14/98
— A3	Des. 405,725	02/16/99	Anscher	D11	216	07/14/98
— A4	Des. 422,142	04/04/2000	Hicks et al.	D3	318	06/04/99
— A5	Des. 426,063	06/06/2000	Hicks et al.	D3	318	06/04/99
— A6	658,124	09/18/1900	Semple			12/14/189
— A7	664,814	12/25/1900	Manes			04/04/190
— A8	751,090	02/02/04	Marold			05/14/03
— A9	967,664	08/16/10	Peterson			08/11/09
— A10	1,565,392	12/15/25	Powers			05/05/25
— A11	2,412,895	12/17/46	Lewis	87	8	09/04/45
— A12	2,585,089	02/12/52	Caldwell et al.	24	Dig22	11/16/49
— A13	3,896,527	07/29/75	Miller et al.	24	81 HS	05/23/73
— A14	4,387,490	06/14/83	Blackburn et al.	24	200	07/14/81
— A15	4,441,677	04/10/84	Byerly	248	74.3	04/02/82
— A16	4,586,499	05/06/86	Kaletzky	128	171	03/19/84
— A17	4,692,970	09/15/87	Anthony et al.	24	642	10/17/86
— A18	4,795,069	01/03/89	Ferrill	224	202	07/01/85
— A19	5,027,477	07/02/91	Seron	24	3 B	03/20/89
— A20	5,121,865	06/16/92	Howard	224	253	07/17/91
— A21	5,127,137	07/07/92	Krauss	24	265 R	04/24/91

Examiner:

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Applicant: Snugz USA, Inc.
 Serial No.: 09/541,297
 Filing Date: April 3, 2000
 For: LANYARD CONNECTOR AND SYSTEM

Att'y Docket No. 14591.2.1.1
 Group: 36263626



Examiner Initial*	Patent Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
<i>MA</i> A22	5,136,756	08/11/92	Krauss	24	265 H	11/06/91
— A23	5,216,786	06/08/93	Anscher	24	200	03/25/87 ?
— A24	5,274,887	01/04/94	Fudaki	24	265 H	04/20/93
— A25	5,365,642	11/22/94	Rekuc et al.	24	600.9	07/29/93
— A26	5,414,903	05/16/95	Porteous	24	9	05/04/93
— A27	5,475,901	12/19/95	Anscher	24	265 H	09/18/92
— A28	5,561,891	06/20/95	Hsieh	24	573.1	10/08/96
— A29	5,582,337	12/10/96	McPherson et al.	224	660	06/20/95
— A30	5,669,119	09/23/97	Seron	24	265 H	07/24/96
— A31	5,689,860	11/25/97	Matoba et al.	24	115 F	06/19/96
— A32	5,842,256	12/01/98	Anscher	24	3.4	10/14/97
— A33	5,855,057	01/05/99	Anscher	24	614	12/29/97
— A34	5,893,199	04/13/99	Anscher	24	625	05/01/98
— A35	5,933,925	08/10/99	Anscher et al.	24	163 R	03/26/97
— A36	5,974,637	11/02/99	Tracy et al.	24	633	12/22/98
<i>V</i> A37	6,000,109	12/14/99	Anscher	24	614	10/13/98

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Publ. Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Sub Class	Translation
<i>MA</i> A38	891,022	03/07/62	UK	44	BE13D1	N/A
— A39	3837261	5/1990	Germany	24	265EC	No

Examiner:

Date Considered:

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Applicant: Snugz USA, Inc.
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For: LANYARD CONNECTOR AND SYSTEM



Att'y Docket No. 14591.2.1.1
Group:

Other Documents

Examiner
Initial*

Documents

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A40	Snugz USA Product Catalog, January 1997
<input type="checkbox"/> A41	Snugz USA Product Catalog, January 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A42	Snugz USA Product Catalog, January 2000
<input type="checkbox"/> A43	Fields 2000 Collection Eyewear and Outdoor Accessories & Gifts, available on information and belief, January, 2000
<input type="checkbox"/> A44	Duraflex 2000 Brochure, National Molding Corporation, Copyright 1999.
<input type="checkbox"/> A45	U.S. Provisional Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 60/088,262, filed June 5, 1998
<input type="checkbox"/> A46	U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 29/105,931, filed June 4, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A47	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 29/105,931, filed June 4, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A48	U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 29/105,930, filed June 4, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A49	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 29/105,930, filed June 4, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A50	U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 29/106,139, filed June 9, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A51	Notice of Allowance for U.S. Design Patent Application to Hicks et al., Serial No. 29/106,139, filed June 9, 1999
<input type="checkbox"/> A52	Snugz USA, Inc. Website, Dated October 3, 2000
<input type="checkbox"/> A53	EK Ekcessories, Inc. Website, Dated April 4, 2000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A54	Photographs (taken October, 2000) of lanyard, on information and belief, sold after June, 1998 and prior to March 31, 2000, with attachment member selectively coupled thereto.

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Date Considered:

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